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**CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS, INCLUDING THE QUESTION
OF RELIGIOUS INTOLERANCE**

**Letter dated 24 July 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus
to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the United Nations
High Commissioner for Human Rights**

As a result of a deliberate policy methodically implemented by Turkey in the occupied areas of Cyprus, the cultural identity of the northern part of the island, which dates back to the seventh millennium BC, is in grave danger of being permanently and completely destroyed. Following the military invasion and occupation in 1974 of the northern part of Cyprus, Turkey and the subordinate regime it set up in the occupied areas began implementing a policy designed to Turkify the occupied part of the island and to destroy all traces of its predominantly Hellenic and Greek Orthodox cultural heritage.

In the context of this policy, of the 502 churches and 17 monasteries and other religious sites in the occupied areas, hundreds have been desecrated, converted into depots of the occupation army or even into stables. Moreover, icons and other sacred items, as well as objects of great archaeological value, have been illegally exported and sold abroad.

From the evidence obtained by the Government of the Republic of Cyprus, including photographic material:

133 churches, monasteries and chapels have been desecrated;

77 churches have been converted into mosques;

18 are used as depots, dormitories or hospitals by the occupation forces;

13 are used as stockyards or hay barns;

One church has been converted into a hotel (the Church of Agia Anastasia in Lapithos);

One church has been rented to a British national and is used as a School of Fine Arts (the Church of Panagia Chrysotrimithiotissa in Trimithi).

A detailed list of administrative district and village of all churches, chapels and monasteries whose condition has been documented to date is given in the annex attached hereto.

The utter disrespect shown by Turkey for the cultural heritage of the part of Cyprus it occupies since 1974 and in particular for places of worship, churches and monasteries, is unacceptable and contrary to international law and morality. The Government of the Republic of Cyprus strongly condemns Turkey's deliberate attempt to destroy the cultural heritage of the occupied areas and calls upon the international community to pressure Turkey to put an end to this policy.

I should be very grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex* could be circulated as a document of the Commission on Human Rights under item 11 (e) of the agenda of the fifty-eighth session.

(Signed): Alexandros VIKIS
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* Reproduced as received, in the language of submission only.

Annex

NICOSIA DISTRICT

AGIOS VASILEIOS

Agios Vasileios Church

This church is used as materiél depot by the Turkish army.

AGIOS GEORGIOS

Profitis Elias Chapel

It is used as dormitory by the Turkish army.

AGIA MARINA SKILLOURAS

Agia Marina Church

This church is used as materiél depot by the Turkish army.

ARGAKI

Timios Prodromos Church

It has been converted into a club.

Church of Agioi Andronikos & Athanasia

It has been converted into stockyard.

AVLONA

Agia Marina Church

It has been converted into a mosque.

VONI

Agios Georgios Church

It is used as a restaurant by the occupation army.

VARISIA

Agios Georgios Church

It is situated in the green line zone and protected by the United Nations.

GALINI

Church of Agios Ioannis o Theologos

There is no information available with respect to this church because only the Turkish army is encamped in the village.

GEROLAKKOS

Panagia Evangelistria Church
It has been converted into a mosque.

Agios Mamas Church
It has been converted into a cultural centre.

EXO METOCHI

Agios Georgios Church
It has been converted into a mosque.

PANO ZOTEIA

Archangelos Michael Church
It has been converted into a mosque.

Panagia Chapel
It has been destroyed.

KATO ZOTEIA

Timios Stavros Church
It has been converted into a mosque.

Church of Agios Georgios Axalanou
It has been converted into a cultural centre.

KALO CHORIO LEFKAS

Agios Modestos Church
It is used as a stockyard.

KAPOUTI

Agios Georgios Church
It has been converted into a mosque.

KATOKOPIA

Panagia Chryseleousa (New Church)
It has been converted into a mosque.

Panagia Chryseleousa (Old Church)
It has been desecrated.

KYTHREA

Agia Marina Church
It has been desecrated.

Church of Agia Anna Sirkantias
It has been converted into a mosque.

Agios Andronikos Church
It has been desecrated. The roof of the church has collapsed.

Timios Stavros Church
It has been desecrated.

Panagia Chardakiotissa Church
It has been converted into a mosque.

KYRA

Church of Panagia
It is used as materiel depot by the occupation army.

LEFKA

Church of Panagia tis Akentous
It has been desecrated.

LOUROUKINA

Agios Epifanios Church
It has been desecrated.

LOUTROS

Agios Loukas Church
There is no information available with respect to this church because only the Turkish army is encamped in the village.

MASARI

Agios Antonios Church
It has been desecrated.

MIA MILIA

Agios Ioannis o Theologos Church
It has been converted into a mosque.

MORPHOU

Agios Mamas Church
It has been converted into an icon museum.

Agios Georgios Church
It has been converted into a cultural centre.

NEAPOLIS

Apostolos Andreas Church
It has been converted into a mosque.

NEO CHORIO KYTHREAS

Agios Charalampos Church
It has been desecrated.

Timios Prodromos Church
It has been desecrated.

NIKITAS

Agios Nikitas Church
It has been converted into a mosque.

XEROS

Agios Nikolaos Church
It has been desecrated.

OMORFITA

Agios Dimitrianos Church
It is used as materiél depot by the Turkish army.

PALEKITHRO

Church of Panagia Galaktrotrophousa
It has been converted into a cultural association.

PENTAGEIA

Agios Nikolaos Church

It has been converted into a mosque.

PETRA

Church of Soterios

There is no information available with respect to this church because only the Turkish army is encamped in the village.

POTAMOS TOU KAMPOU

Agios Andreas Church

There is no information available with respect to this church.

Agios Nikolaos Chapel

It has been desecrated.

PRASTIO

Agios Stylianos Church

It has been converted into a mosque.

PYROGI

Agios Antonios Church

It has been desecrated.

SKILLOURA

Panagia Eleousa Church

It has been converted into a mosque.

SYRIANOCHORI

Agios Nikolaos Church

It has been converted into a mosque.

TRACHONAS

Church of Panagia tou Trachona

It has been converted into a youth centre

TRACHONI

Church of Panagia

It has been converted into a mosque but was abandoned after the earthquake.

TYMPOU

Agios Georgios Church

It is used as a depot for ammunition by the Turkish occupation forces.

Agia Marina Chapel

It is used as a depot for ammunition by the Turkish occupation forces.

FILLIA

Profitis Elias Church

It has been desecrated. The roof of the church collapsed.

Agios Georgios Church

It has been converted into a mosque.

CHRYSILOU

Church of Sotiros

It has been desecrated.

10. KERYNIA DISTRICT

AGIOS AMVROSIOS

Agios Amvrosios Church

It has been converted into a mosque.

AGIOS GEORGIOS

Agios Georgios Church

It has been converted into a mosque.

AGIA EIRINI

Agia Eirini Church

It has been desecrated

AGIOS EPIKTITOS

Agios Epiktitos Church
It has been converted into a mosque.

AGIOS ERMOLAOS

Agios Ermolaos (New Church)
It has been converted into a mosque.
Agios Ermolaos Church (Old Church)
It has been converted into a hay barn

AGRIDAKI

Agios Charalampos Church
It has been desecrated.

ASOMATOS

Church of Archangelos
Mass is celebrated by the Maronite enclaved persons.

VASILIA

Agioi Konstantinos & Eleni
It has been converted into a mosque.

Agia Aikaterini Church
It has been desecrated.

VOUNO

Agios Georgios Church
It has been converted into a mosque.

PANO DIKOMON

Profitis Zacharias
It has been converted into a mosque.

KATO DIKOMON

Agios Georgios Church
It has been converted into a mosque.

Panagia ton Pervolion Chapel
It has been desecrated.

DIORIOS

Agia Marina (New Church)
It is used as military hospital by the Turkish occupation forces.

Agia Marina (New Church)
It has been converted into stockyard.

ELIA

Agios Nikolaos Church
It has been desecrated.

THERMIA

Panagia Thermiotissa Church
It has been desecrated.

KAZAFANI

Archangelos Michail Church
It has been desecrated.

KALOGRAIA

Agios Mamas Church
It has been converted into a mosque.

Church of Panagia tis Melandrinas
It has been converted into a stockyard.

Monastiri Christou Antifoniti (monastery)
It has been desecrated.

KARAVAS

Panagia Evangelistria Church
It has been converted into a mosque

Agios Georgios Church
It has been desecrated

Agia Eirini Church
It has been desecrated

Monastiri Acheropoitou (monastery)
It is used materiél depot by the Turkish Occupation Forces

Agios Evlalios Chapel
It is used by materiél depot by the Turkish Occupation Force.

KARMI

Panagia Karmiotissa Church
It has been converted into a mosque.

KARPASIA

Timios Stavros Church
Mass is celebrated by the Maronite enclaved persons.

KERYNIA

Agios Georgios Church
It has been converted into a mosque

Archangelos Michail Church
It has been converted into an icon museum

Church of Panagia Chrysopolitissa
It has been desecrated. The roof of the church collapsed

Agia Varvara Church
It has been converted into a mosque.

KLEPINI

Apostolos Loukas Church
It has been converted into a mosque

Panagia Chapel
It has been desecrated.

KONTEMENOS

Archangelos Michail Church
It is used as a materiél depot by the Turkish occupation forces.

KORMAKITIS

Agios Georgios Church
Mass is celebrated by the Maronite enclaved persons

Monasteri Chrysostomos (monastery)
It is used dormitory by Turkish occupation forces.

LAPITHOS

Agios Minas Church
It has been converted into a mosque

Agia Paraskevi Church
It has been converted into a mosque

Agia Anastasia Church
It has been converted into a hotel

Timios Stavros Church
It has been desecrated

Agios Theodoros Church
It has been desecrated

Agios Kournoutas Church
It has been desecrated.

LARNAKAS TIS LAPITHOU

Agios Demetrianos Church
It has been converted into a mosque

Monasteri Panagias ton Katharon (monastery)
It has been converted into a stockyard.

LIVERA

Church of Agioi Konstantinos & Eleni
It has been converted into a mosque

MIRTOU

Agios Panteleimon Church
It has been converted into a materiél depot by the Turkish occupation forces.

ORKA

Agios Georgios Church
It has been converted into a mosque.

PALIOSOFOS

Agia Paraskevi Church
It has been desecrated.

PANAGRA

Apostolos Andreas Church
It has been converted into a mosque.

BELLAPAIS

Panagia Asproforousa Church
The church is to be found in the Bellapais Abbey and is maintained in a good condition for reasons of propaganda

Agios Georgios Chapel
It has been converted into a mosque

Agia Marina Church
It has been desecrated.

SYCHARI

Agios Mamas Church
It has been desecrated

Panagia Apsidiotissa Church
It has been desecrated.

SYSKLIPOS

Panagia Chryseleousa Church
It has been converted into a hay barn.

TRIMITHI

Agios Charalampos Church
It has been desecrated

Panagia Chrysotrimithiotissa Church
It has been converted into a school of fine arts.

FTERYCHA

Church of Apostoloi Petros kai Pavlos
It has been converted into a mosque.

CHARTSIA

Archangelos Michail Church
It has been desecrated

Agios Demetrios Chapel
It has been desecrated

Armenomonastiro

The monastery has been desecrated. An effort has been desecrated. An effort has been undertaken to convert it into a hotel and casino. Due to the great extent of destruction it suffered, however, the effort was abandoned because such venture would be very costly.

11. FAMAGUSTA DISTRICT

MONASTIRI APOSTOLOS ANDREAS

The monastery is maintained for reasons of propaganda and mass is celebrated from time to time by the enclaved persons.

MONASTIRI APOSTOLOS VARNAVAS

This monastery has been converted into a museum for icons for reasons of propaganda.

AGIOS ANDRONIKOS

Agia Fotini Church
It has been desecrated.

AGIOS GEORGIOS TRIKOMOU

Agios Georgios Church
It has been desecrated.

AGIA TRIADA

Agia Triada Church
Mass is celebrated by the enclaved persons

Agia Pavla Chapel
It has been desecrated

Agios Fanourios Chapel
It has been desecrated

Agios Georgios Chapel
It has been desecrated.

AGIOS ELIAS

Profitis Elias Chapel
It has been converted into a mosque.

AGIOS THEODOROS

Agia Paraskevi Church
It has been desecrated

Agios Eulogios Chapel
It has been desecrated.

AGIOS NIKOLAOS

Agios Nikolaos Church
It has been desecrated.

AGIOS SERGIOS

Church of Agioi Sergios & Vakchos
It has been desecrated

Agia Paraskevi Church
It has been desecrated

Agios Sozomenos Chapel
It has been desecrated.

ANGASTINA

Agia Paraskevi Church
It has been converted into a mosque

Agios Therapon Church
It has been desecrated

AGANTHOU

Metamorphoseos tou Sotiros Church
It has been converted into a mosque

Agios Therapon Church
It has been desecrated.

FAMAGUSTA

Agia Zoni Church
It has been desecrated

Church of Agios Georgios Salaminas
It has been desecrated

Agios Ioannis Church
It has been converted into a museum for icons for reasons of propaganda

Church of Panagia Chrysospilotissa
It has been converted into a mosque

Agios Memnonas Church
It is situated in the closed area of Famagusta

Timios Stavros Church
It has been desecrated

Agios Nikolaos Church
It has been desecrated

Agia Paraskevi Church
It has been desecrated

Agia Zoni Church
It has been desecrated

Agia Ekaterini Church
It has been desecrated

Church of Sacré Coeur (Maronites)
It has been desecrated

Church of Agios Georgios Xorinou
It has been converted into a cultural centre

Church of Agios Georgios Farangou
It has been desecrated

Agios Panteleimon Chapel
It has been desecrated.

ARDANA

Agios Georgios Church
It has been desecrated.

ARNADI

Agios Andronikos Church
It has been desecrated.

ASSIA

Agios Theodoros Church
It has been desecrated

Agios Georgios Church
It has been desecrated

Ioannis Prodromos Church
It has been converted into a mosque

Panagia Church
It has been desecrated. It is situated within the village cemetery

Profitis Elias Church
It has been desecrated.

AFANIA

Agios Demetrios Church
It has been desecrated

Agios Georgios Church
It has been desecrated.

ACHERITOU

Sotiros Church
It has been converted into a mosque

Church of Panagia tis Trapezas
It has been converted into a stockyard.

ACHNA

Agia Marina Church
It has been desecrated.

VATHYLAKAS

Agios Georgios Church (New Church)
It has been converted into a mosque

Agios Georgios Church (Old Church)
It has been desecrated

Agios Konstantinos Chapel
It has been desecrated

VASILI

Agios Vasileios Church
It has been converted into a mosque

Agios Tryfon Chapel
It has been desecrated.

VATILI

Agios Georgios Church
It has been converted into a mosque.

VITSADA

Agios Mamas Church
It has been converted into a mosque.

VOUKOLIDA

Agios Georgios Church
It has been converted into a mosque.

GAIDOURAS (NEA SPARTI)

Agios Mamas Church
It has been desecrated

Panagia Chapel
It has been desecrated.

GASTRIA

Agios Georgios Church
It has been desecrated.

GENAGRA

Panagia Church
It has been desecrated

Agios Georgios Church
It has been desecrated.

GERANI

Agios Georgios Church
It has been converted into a mosque

Agia Ekaterini Church
It has been desecrated

Panagia Evangelistria Chapel
It has been desecrated.

YIALOUSA

Agia Marina (New Church)
It has been desecrated

Agia Marina Church (Old Church)
It has been desecrated

Agios Fotios Church
It has been converted into a mosque

Agios Thyrsos Church
It has been desecrated.

GOUFES

Agios Georgios Church
It has been desecrated.

GYPSOU

Agios Georgios Church
It has been converted into a mosque

Panagia Church
It has been desecrated

Timios Prodromos Church
It has been desecrated

Profitis Elias Chapel
It has been desecrated.

DAVLOS

Agios Georgios Church
It has been desecrated.

ENGOMI

Panagia Church
It has been converted into a mosque.

EFTAKOMI

Agios Georgios Church
It has been converted into a mosque

KALOPSIDA

Timios Prodromos Church
It has been converted into a mosque

Chapel of Agios Georgios Kontou
It has been desecrated

Chapel of Kimisis tis Theodokou
It has been desecrated.

KOILANEMOS

Agios Georgios Church
It has been desecrated.

KONTEA

Agios Charalampos Church
It has been desecrated.

KOMA TOU GIALOU

Archangelos Church
It has been converted into a mosque

Agios Georgios Church
It has been desecrated

Agia Solomoni Church
It has been desecrated

Agios Nikolaos Church
It has been desecrated

Panagia Church
It has been desecrated.

KOMI KEPİR

Agios Georgios Church
It has been converted into a mosque

Agios Afxentios Church
It has been desecrated.

LAPATHOS

Timios Prodromos Church
It has been converted into a mosque.

LIVADIA

Church of Panagia tis Kyras
It has been desecrated.

LEONARISSON

Agios Demetrios Church
It has been converted into a mosque.

LEFKONIKON

Archangelos Michail Church
It has been desecrated

Sotiros Church
It has been converted into a mosque

Stavros Chapel
It has been desecrated.

LIMNIA

Agios Nikolaos Church
It has been converted into a mosque

Agios Georgios Church
It has been converted into a mosque.

LYTHRAGKOMI

Monasteri of Panagia Kanakaria (monastery)
It has been desecrated.

LYSI

Panagia Church
It has been converted into a mosque

Agios Effimianos Church
It has been desecrated.

MAKRASIKA

Panagia Church
It has been converted into a storehouse

Agios Efstathios Chapel
It has been desecrated.

MANDRES

Monasteri Panagia tis Tochnious
It has been converted into a stockyard

Agios Epifanios Church
It has been converted into a mosque.

MARATHOVOUNOS

Profitis Elias Church
It has been desecrated.

MELANAGRA

Agios Polychronios Church
It has been desecrated

MILIA

Agioi Andronikos & Athanasia Church
It has been converted into a hay barn

Agios Epifanios Church
It has been converted into a mosque.

MONARKA

Agia Paraskevi Church
It has been desecrated.

MOUSOULITA

Agios Loukas Church
It has been converted into a mosque.

BOGAZI

Agios Spyridon Church
It has been desecrated.

NETA

Panagia Church (New Church)
It has been converted into a mosque

Panagia Church (Old Church)
It has been converted into a mosque.

PATRIKI

Archangelos Michail Church
It has been converted into a mosque

Agios Georgios Chapel
It has been desecrated

Chapel of Panagia Tripidis
It has been desecrated

PERISTERONA

Agios Anastasios (New Church)
It has been desecrated

Agios Anastasios (Old Church)
It has been desecrated.

PIGI

Archangelos Michail Church
It has been desecrated

Agia Marina Church
It has been desecrated

Timios Stavros Church
It has been converted into a mosque.

PRASTIO

Agios Georgios Church
It has been converted into a mosque.

PYRGA

Archangelos Michail Church

It is used as materiél depot by the Turkish occupation forces.

RIZOKARPASON

Agios Sinesios Church

Mass is celebrated by the Greek Cypriot enclaved persons

Agia Triada Church

Mass is celebrated by the Greek Cypriot enclaved persons

Panagia Eleousa Church

It has been desecrated

Archangelos Michail Church

It has been desecrated

Agios Filon Church

It has been desecrated

Panagia Afentrika Church

It has been desecrated

Agia Mavri Church

It has been desecrated

Agios Nikolaos Church

It has been desecrated

Agia Marina Church

It has been desecrated

Agioi Andronikos & Athanasia Church

It has been desecrated

Profitis Elias Chapel

It has been desecrated

Agios Georgios Chapel

It has been desecrated.

SPATHARIKO

Agios Loukas Church

It has been converted into a mosque

Agios Georgios Church
It has been desecrated.

STROGGYLOS

Agios Louka Church
It has been converted into a stockyard.

STYLLOI

Profitis Elias Church
It has been desecrated

SYNGRASI

Agios Prokopios Church
It has been converted into a stockyard

Church of Ayion Trion Pedon
It has been desecrated

Panagia Chapel
It has been desecrated

TAVROU

Church of Agioi Sergios & Vakchos
It has been converted into a mosque.

TRIKOMON

Panagia Church
It has been converted into a club

Agios Georgios Church
It has been converted into a mosque

Agios Iakovos Church
It has been desecrated

Agia Anastasia Church
It has been desecrated.

TRIPIMENI

Panagia Eleousa Church
It has been desecrated

FLAMOUDI

Agios Georgios Church
It has been converted into a mosque.

12. LARNAKA DISTRICT

ARSOS

Panagia Eleousa Church
It is used as a restaurant by the Turkish Army.

TREMETOUSIA

Agios Spiridon Church
It has been converted into a stockyard.
